

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. The Examiner rejects all of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Palatsi or Anderson et al. (Anderson).

Formal Matters

Applicant submits herewith formal drawings which are believed to address all the informalities noted in Form PTO-948 attached to the Office Action. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of these drawings and approve these drawings.

The Examiner returned forms PTO-1449 listing the references submitted with Applicant's IDSs filed September 29, 1999, January 12, 2001 and September 7, 2001. However, the Examiner has not initialed these forms PTO-1449 to indicate that he has considered these references. Applicant also notes that the Examiner has not provided an explanation as to why these references were not considered. In this regard, Applicant respectfully submits that, while these references are not in the English language, Applicant has meet the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a) (3) for foreign language documents for the respective reasons set forth in the Information Disclosure Statements enclosing these respective forms PTO-1449. (See MPEP §609(III)(A3)).

Prior Art Rejections

The present invention is characterized not only in that items appearing on a display to be selected and keys adjoining them correspond to each other, but also in that an item selected is hierarchical displayed in order to facilitate user's operation.

Applicant amends independent claims 1 and 3 more clearly to define the features the Applicants invention as disclosed in the specification and as illustrated in the drawings (see, for

example, Figs. 8-13). These amendments are intended to make explicit what was believed to have been implicitly defined in the original claims 1 and 3 with respect to the limitation describing how items are displayed. As such, these amendments do not narrow the scope of this limitation to preclude the equivalencies encompassed by the original claims 1 and 3.

Both Palatsi and Anderson disclose a portable electronic device (such as a cellular phone), and describe a user interface implemented therein. In particular, Anderson describes a menu system wherein each of a plurality of telephone keys have at least one respective dedicated function associated therewith (see Anderson's Figs. 4-10; see also, for example, col. 3, lines 34-50). Likewise, Palatsi describes a user interface, and provides a general description of a keypad 7 for providing input to a processor, where "soft" keys 11 and 12 have soft key zones 13 and 14, respectively associated therewith, for indicating current functions corresponding to the respective ones of the soft keys (see Palatsi Figs. 2-4; see also, for example, col. 2, lines 31-46).

Contrary to Applicant's claimed invention, Palatsi discloses a portable telephone, wherein the items displayed on the LCD display 8 are only those corresponding to the "soft" keys 11, 12. That is, as shown in Palatsi's Figs. 3 and 4, rather than displaying items hierarchically, only those items corresponding to "soft" keys 11, 12 are displayed on LCD 8, once the user selects an operation (see Palatsi, column 2, line 47 through column 3, line 42).

Likewise, in Anderson, at any one given time only the functions corresponding to soft keys are displayed. (See, for example, Anderson, column 11, line 40 through column 12, line 32). That is, in Anderson, once the user selects an operation available from an initial display, subsequent display does not provide hierarchical information with regard to the previous display. For example, referring to Anderson's, Fig. 7, a user choosing an operation from display S10,

which includes at line 64 "MENU MSG PAD," will move to display S20 which no longer includes this information. In contrast, referring, for example, to Applicant's Fig. 9, a user moving from display (II) to display (III) still has available for viewing hierarchical information, namely, "KEY TONE" in this example. Thus, as shown in the illustrative example of Applicant's Fig. 9, a user moving from display (II) to display (III) still has available for viewing information with regard to the selected operation, i.e., "KEY TONE", and not simply "YES" or "NO" (contrast Palatsi Fig. 4, displays 25 and 26).

In summary, Applicant's independent claims 1 and 3, as well the dependent claims 2 and 4-10 (which incorporate all of the novel and unobvious features of their respective base claims) are not anticipated by (i.e., are not readable on) Palatsi or Anderson at least for these reasons.


In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/408,265

Atty Dkt No. Q55939

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A portable electronic apparatus including a display and allowing a user of said portable electronic apparatus to select a function, comprising;

a plurality of keys associated one-to-one with a plurality of guide areas included in said display; and

control means for displaying, in each operation step, particular operation items which can be selected by the user in said plurality of guide areas, and executing, when any one of said plurality of keys is pressed, processing relating to one of said operation items appearing in one of said plurality of guide areas associated with the key pressed,

wherein said items selected by the user are displayed hierarchically.

3. (Amended) A portable electronic apparatus comprising:

storing means for storing, for each of a plurality of functions, operation items which can be selected by a user operation step [by operation step];

a display including a plurality of guide areas each for displaying respective guidance information representative of an operation item which can be selected by the user;

a key input section including a plurality of keys associated one-to-one with said plurality of guide areas; and

control means for managing a process of the operation step, and displaying, in each operation step, the guidance information representative of the operation items stored in said storing means in said guide areas, and executing, when any one of said keys is pressed, processing relating to one of said operation items appearing in one of said plurality of guide areas associated with the key pressed,

wherein said operation items are displayed hierarchically.